IN THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently Amended). A method comprising:

receiving a password through a graphical user interface generated by a graphics controller before an operating system boots;

after receiving said password, comparing said password to stored information using the graphics controller; and

booting the operating system using a processor different than said graphics controller after comparing said password to stored information using said graphics controller.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

3 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 including generating said graphical user interface using said graphics controller.

4 (Original). The method of claim 3 including storing information for generating said graphical user interface on an option memory.

5 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 3 including using boot code running on a graphics controller to generate the graphical user interface.

6 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 3 wherein generating a graphical user interface includes generating a graphical user interface to enable the user to input said password.

7 (Original). The method of claim 6 wherein generating a graphical user interface includes generating an on-screen keyboard.

8 (Original). The method of claim 1 including receiving inputs from the user through the graphical user interface without a keyboard.

9 (Original). The method of claim 1 including authenticating a user and allowing the operating system to boot if the user has been authenticated.

10 (Original). The method of claim 9 including receiving a password entered without a keyboard using the graphical user interface.

11 (Currently Amended). A computer readable non-transitory medium storing instructions that enables a graphics controller to:

receive a password through a graphical user interface generated by the graphics controller before an operating system boots; ~~and~~

after receipt of said password, but before the operating system is booted, compare said password to stored information using the graphics controller[[.]]; and

turn over control to another processor to boot the operating system.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

13 (Previously Presented). The medium of claim 11 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the controller to generate a graphical user interface.

14 (Previously Presented). The medium of claim 13 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the controller to generate said graphical user interface on an option memory.

15 (Previously Presented). The medium of claim 11 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the controller to use the boot code running on a graphics controller to generate the graphical user interface.

16 (Previously Presented). The medium of claim 11 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the controller to generate a graphical user interface to enable the user to input a password.

17 (Previously Presented). The medium of claim 16 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the controller to generate an on-screen keyboard.

18 (Previously Presented). The medium of claim 11 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the controller to receive inputs from the user through the graphical user interface without a keyboard.

19 (Previously Presented). The medium of claim 11 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the controller to authenticate a user and allow the operating system to boot if the user has been authenticated.

20 (Previously Presented). The medium of claim 19 wherein said medium stores instructions that enable the controller to receive a password entered without a keyboard using the graphical user interface.

Claims 21-25 (Canceled).